(c) The proposal of the Government of West Bengal would be considered in accordance with the procedure laid down in the PCPIR Policy.

Refund of levies imposed in textile Industry

1572. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from textile industry of Southern States regarding refund of levies imposed by the State Government and local authorities since there is a huge loss due to rupee appreciation;

(b) if so, whether Government has proposed to refund such levies;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has received representation on the problems being faced by the textile industry of Southern States; whereby it had been requested, *inter alia,* to consider compensation to the tune of 4% to the exporters against State levies such as octroi and other State taxes.

(b) to (d) As these taxes are levied by the respective State Government, the powers to refund the levies imposed by the State Governments and local authorities are also with the respective State Government.

Index Review Committee

1573. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when Government last appointed the Index Review Committee constituting of prominent Economists, representatives of Central Statistical Organisation, employers and trade unions;

(b) whether the Prime Minister in the meeting of Central trade unions on August 19,2006 assured them to set up an Index Review Committee; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister has taken the meeting with Central Trade Unions on 19th August, 2006. In pursuance of its decision, an Index Review Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Prof G.K. Chadha on November 17,2006 including two members each of Central Trade Unions; Employers' Organizations; State Governments and Ministry of Labour and Employment; and one member each from Department of Economic affairs; Consumer Affairs, the Centra! Statistical Organization and one Member Secretary (Director General Labour Bureau). The Committee is required to submit its review report on various aspects of the Consumer Price Index Number for Industrial workers (CPI-IW) new series (base: 2001=100) including price collection mechanism and to make recommendations for further improvement.

Withdrawal of exemption from paying income tax

1574. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has withdrawn the exemption given to Co-operative Societies and Banks from paying income tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various State Governments and Co-operative Banks have represented against such a decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Vide the Finance Act, 2006, the benefit under Section SOP of the Income-tax Act has been withdrawn for all cooperative banks other than Primary Agricultural Credit Societies and Primary Cooperative Agricultural & Rural Development Banks.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received for restoration of tax benefit under section SOP of the Income-tax Act for cooperative banks. After consideration, the request has not been found to be acceptable.

Impact of central excise exemptions on industrial growth in Uttarakhand

1575. SHRI HARISH RAWAT; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of grant of area based central excise exemptions on the industrial growth in Uttarakhand;

(b) how many new units have been set up between 2003 and 2006 in the State; and

(c) what has been the Central excise revenue foregone in the State on this account for the financial year 2004-05,2005-06 and 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) According to the data available with the Government, the impact of area based central excise exemption in Uttarkhand in terms of the number of units, investment made and employment generated during 2003 to 2007 (upto September) is as under:

Sl. No.	Details	Total (Including SSI, Medium and Large units)	
		Set up	Proposed to be set up
!.	No. of units set up/proposed to be set up	12334	5192'
2.	Investment made/proposed (Rs. crore)	6848	16862
3.	Employment generated/proposed to be generated	83421	164036

(c) The estimated central excise revenue foregone for operating the exemption in Uttaranchal has been Rs. 132 crore, Rs. 1125 crore for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Estimated central excise revenue foregone for the half-year 2006-07 (till September) is about Rs. 916 crore.

Tax deducted at Source

1576. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government employees in Delhi whose income tax was deducted at source last year;